this will not be a short term project, apparently the possibilities of interspecific hybridization warrant extensive investigation. To surmount some of the sterility barriers, embryo-culture techniques in which the embryo is excised from the seed and grown in pure culture on agar as is done with orchids will be employed. By such techniques seedlings are often obtained that would abort in the immature seed.

Since I am unfamiliar with the innumerable H. rosa-sinensis cultivars, I must rely on the knowledge and experience of others for suggestions on desired parental clones. It is realized that much sterility exists among this group as is to be expected in any similar group of complex hybrids. Because it is impossible to screen the hundreds of named cultivars cytogenetically the research scope will be restricted to both good seed and pollen parental clones. Within limitations, it would be desirable to restrict the experimental material to select types with desirable ornamental attributes. Emphasis should be placed on cold resistance, flowers that remain open, cultivars known to produce sports, and clear white, yellow, orange, pink, and red forms. Within each color range, several to many cultivars will be evaluated to locate suitable clones for hybridization. Screening numerous cultivars to obtain the desired plant may be necessary but possibly a number of cultivars with similar chromosome complements will be equally valuable as parental plants.

The new greenhouse and laboratories now available provide facilities for handling plants or propagation material. Arrangements have been made to obtain a quantity of understock for grafting. Since root tips will be used in the cytological studies, own-root plants will be propagated whenever possible, The flowers from grafted plants will provide material for meiotic chromosomal study and or possible hybridization. Cuttings from grafted plants can be rooted in the mist propagation section of the greenhouse. Of course, rooting cuttings of certain cultivars can

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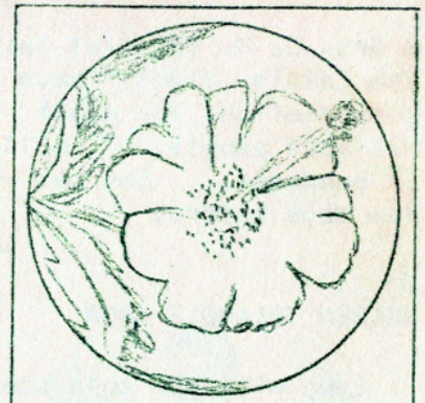

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